DISTRIBUTED NETWORK SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE FOR COLLABORATIVE COMPUTING

Min Zhu
Jian Shen
Steven Li
Guanghong Yang
Bin Zhao
Shi Yan
Zheng Yuan

DO NOT ENTER

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A distributed collaborative computer system is provided that comprises a plurality of server computers interconnected via a high-speed link. Client computers can connect to any available server computer and start or join a conference hosted on either the server computer to which the client computer is connected or any other server in the system. As a result, the system and method of the present invention is easily scalable to support an arbitrary number of participants to a conference by merely adding the appropriate number of server computers to the system. In addition, by replicating the conference information on more than one server computer, the single point of failure limitation is eliminated. In fact, if a server hosting or participating in a conference malfunctions, the failure is detected by other server computers and the client computer is able to reconnect to the conference through a new server computer.